

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

- 5 An audio user interface is provided in which items are represented in an audio field by corresponding synthesized sound sources from where sounds related to the items appear to emanate. A division of the audio field into segments is specified. In response to predetermined user input indicating at least one of these segments, the audibility of the synthesised sound sources in the segment concerned is changed, for example, to mute or
- 10 un-mute the sound sources. The segmentation of the audio field can be set relative to the user's facing direction, to a presentation reference determined by the configuration of audio output devices used to produce the synthesised sound sources, or to any other convenient reference. This selective segment muting facilitates exploration of the audio field by the user.

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